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CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY TRAINING, 1954-1955

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The Tenth Congress of the KSC (Komunistická Strana Československa, Czechoslovak Communist Party) was deeply concerned with questions of ideological activity, and emphasized the primary significance of such activity in the life and work of the party. Full development of the ideological activity of the party is possible only when it is based on further dissemination of Marxist-Leninist propaganda.

Up to now, results of party training indicate that a majority of party organizations participated more actively in party training and, in keeping with the spirit of the new party statutes, more effectively organized and maintained a check on how Communists mastered the knowledge of Marxism-Leninism and how they were applying it in their work. Despite this fact, there are still many serious shortcomings in party propaganda. It is necessary to lead a far more effective fight against dogmatic explanation of Marxism-Leninism. Dogmatism is irrelevant to party politics and is caused by the ideological and theoretical immaturity of a substantial portion of the propagandists, and their meager relationship to party life.

Thus far, the Division of Propaganda and Agitation (Oddelení propagandy a agitace) of the Central Committee of the KSC has inadequately fulfilled the tasks regarding the improvement of the standard and the effectiveness of party propaganda as set forth by the session of the Central Committee of the KSC, held from 3 to 7 December 1953. There has been a marked absence of an effective battle against dogmatism and against irrelevancy of party training to party policy. Frequently, the lack of vital content of study texts, cursory and formal study, and the low standard of propagandists tended to lower the standard of training. In spite of the fact that the Division of Propaganda and Agitation increased its direct assistance to kraj committees of the party, it did not effectively lead and direct the battle against dogmatism and irrelevancy in party training, particularly through the medium of the party press. The party press, the party training curriculum, and lectures did little to clarify the currently very significant Marxist-Leninist ideas, as pointed up by the Central Committee of the KSC.

The task of party organs is to insure that party propaganda, through the press, lectures, and party training, explains better than heretofore the bases of scientific world opinion, namely, such questions as the task of the masses and the alliance of farmers and workers. In the interest of constant improvement of the work of party organizations, it is an important task of the propaganda phase to explain the leading and directing role of the people's democratic society, and to answer questions regarding collective leadership. In connection with this, it is necessary to clarify ideological, organizational, tactical, and theoretical foundations of the party to a greater degree than heretofore.

In propaganda, it is essential to battle energetically against all expression of bourgeois ideology, especially bourgeois nationalism and social democracy, and to increase the revolutionary alertness of Communists and all workers of our nation. Party propaganda must train Communists as well as non-party members to have boundless devotion and love for the people's democratic

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mother country, to demonstrate the proper attitude toward socialistic ownership, and to learn that the living standard can be raised only on the basis of expanded production and increased productivity of work in factory and field. Our working people properly reply to the policy of the party and government, whose aim is to raise the living standard through the expansion of labor activity. The task of the party organizations is to see that more light is shed on such matters as economizing, lowered production costs, increased productivity of labor, and questions of socialist competition.

In the battle against irrelevance, dogmatism, and pedanticism, it is necessary to abolish the nonchalant attitude toward the study of the resolutions of the party congress, and the conferences and assemblies of the Central Committees of the KSC and the CPSU. The great importance of these documents lies in the fact that they express the domestic and foreign policies of the party in various phases of their development, indicate the creative application of Marxism-Leninism in practice, and are a directive to proper action for party organizations. The resolutions of the party are an expression of the unity of theory and practice, and are the achievements of collective leadership.

To fight against irrelevance in party propaganda means to clarify the resolutions of the party and the government, and to lead the workers toward informed execution of these resolutions.

Currently, a responsible task lies before all party organs -- to acquaint the working people of our nation with the resolutions of the Tenth Congress of the party. To do this, it is necessary fully to develop lecture propaganda activities in factories, villages, cities, and educational institutions, and to study these resolutions in connection with individual themes of the year of Party Training (Rok stranickeho koleni). It is the task of kraj and okres committees to develop the conditions for the expansion of lecture propaganda activities.

In the battle against these inadequacies, it is essential that party organs insure thorough theoretical and methodological preparation of propagandists. This is done through systematic formal schooling and through seminars during the course of the year of Party Training. Party organs must devote greater attention to the preparation and execution of such training.

The inadequacy of propaganda activity is linked to the party organs who direct it. Some party organs direct party propaganda formally. They fail to check the work of propagandists and negotiate questions of training without knowledge of its content or standards. In many cases, the principle that propagandists determine the standard and results of the training is overlooked. Insufficient attention has thus far been devoted to the selection and training of propagandists. Reconciliation with formal selection and frequent fluctuation of propagandists is no longer possible. It is necessary to strive for the creation of a permanent corps of propagandists and to prevent their being overloaded with various functions.

The statutes of the party direct that all members and candidates master the principles of Marxism-Leninism and that they be guided by these principles in their work. Every member and candidate is obligated to fulfill this task, and party organizations are obligated to check its fulfillment. It is therefore the duty of the party organizations to convince members, candidates, and outstanding nonparty workers to join in organized party training, through which the party has provided a means of fulfilling this obligation. Party organizations are to permit members and candidates to make voluntary selections of the type of training they desire according to the needs of their work and their level [of knowledge].

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For workers of the party, national, and economic apparatus who are not sufficiently prepared in the areas of their specialties, the organizations will recommend specialized training. In this connection it is essential to insure that the worker's political knowledge is also enhanced.

The task of all party committees and organizations is to insure the execution of the resolutions of the Central Committee of the KSC, to stimulate an interest in the study of Marxism and Leninism among Communists and nonparty members to teach its application in everyday work in the interest of benefitting and developing our people's democratic nation, to raise the standard of living, and to strengthen world peace.

The 1954-1955 Year of Party Training will begin 1 October 1954. It will be concluded on 30 June 1955 in cities and on 31 May 1955 in villages. The existing training schedule will be rearranged and supplemented as follows:

1. Courses on contemporary party policy.
2. Basic political training courses.
3. Groups for the study of questions on national economy.
4. Groups for the study of the history of the CPSU.
5. Okres evening classes in Marxism-Leninism.
6. Evening university sessions in Marxism-Leninism.
7. Independent study of Marxism-Leninism.

As a part of independent study, okres committees are to create seminars for the study of the history of the KSC, history of the CPSU, dialectic and historical materialism, political economics and questions of the national economy, and international relations.

The purpose of the above individual groups is to create a system which will permit a systematic enhancement of knowledge ranging from the basic problems of party policy to independent study of Marxism-Leninism. At the same time, the individual groups of the RSS permit proper direction of students, as their individual needs indicate, toward political and economic questions. It is necessary to secure non-party members for study in courses on contemporary party policy, basic courses, groups for the study of questions of the national economy, groups for the study of the history of the CPSU, and for evening university sessions on Marxism-Leninism. [The following is a detailed discussion of the seven courses of study being offered during the 1954-1955 year of party training.]

Courses on Contemporary Party Policy

These courses will include lectures and discussions on actual political subjects designated by the Central Committee of the KSC. Students will receive explanations of the main questions raised by the Tenth Congress. Lectures will be given on resolutions of the party and the government and on current international problems. The lectures may be attended by all who are interested even though they may be enrolled in other units of the training program.

Basic Political Training Courses

These courses permit the training of candidates and of persons who are beginning the study of Marxism-Leninism. Their program will be as follows:

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1. What is the KSC and what does it desire?
2. The battle of the Czechoslovak working people, under the leadership of the KSC, for the overthrow of bourgeois domination.
3. Tasks of the party in the building of socialism in industry, trade, and finance.
4. Tasks of the party in the building of socialism in the village.
5. The People's Democracy of Czechoslovakia -- a nation of workers and farmers.
6. The Soviet Union at the head of nations in the battle for peace, democracy, and independence.

Groups Studying Questions on National Economy

These courses, as listed below, are designed to permit cadres of party functionaries in the factories and villages to study and master economic problems:

1. Results and significance of the First Five-Year Plan.
2. Planning in our national economy.
3. Methods of increasing productivity of labor; socialist competition.
6. The state budget and distribution of the national income.

In industry:

4. Technical norm setting, organization of work, and wages in national industry.
5. The Khozraschot and production costs.

In agriculture:

4. How to insure the fulfillment of directives by the Tenth Congress of the KSC calling for a substantial increase in agricultural production.
5. The strengthening of the ties between workers and farmers in the interest of building socialism in the villages.

Groups Studying of the History of the CPSU

In these groups, the following subjects will be taught:

First-Year Study Program

1. The battle for the creation of a Social Democratic Worker Party in Russia (with introduction based upon the thesis of the Central Committee of the CPSU commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the CPSU)
2. Creation of the Social Democratic Worker Party of Russia and the evolution of the Menshevik and Bolshevik factions within the party.
3. The Mensheviks and Bolsheviks during the Russo-Japanese War and the first Russian revolution.

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4. The Mensheviks and Bolsheviks during the period of the Stolypin re-
action. Bolsheviks organize an independent Marxist Party.
5. The Bolshevik Party during the years of the expansion of the worker
movement prior to the first imperialistic war.
6. The Bolshevik Party during the period of the imperialistic war. The
Second Revolution in Russia.
7. The Bolshevik Party during the period of the preparation and execution
of the October Socialist Revolution.
8. The Communist Party during the period of foreign intervention and the
civil war.

Second-Year Study Program

1. The Communist Party during the period of transition to peaceful renewal
of the national economy.
2. The Communist Party in the battle for socialist industrialization.
3. The Communist Party in the battle for collectivization of agriculture.
4. The Communist Party in the battle for completion of the structure of
a socialist society and the adoption of the new constitution
5. The Communist Party in the battle for completion of the structure of
socialism and the gradual transition to Communism during prewar years (1938-
1941).
6. The Communist Party during the period of the Great Patriotic War of
the USSR.
7. The Communist Party of the USSR in the postwar period, in the battle
for the renewal and further expansion of the national economy, and the assurance
of the systematic transition from Socialism to Communism.
8. The Communist Party of the USSR, the leading and directing force of
Soviet society - the example for Communist and labor parties throughout the
world.

Groups studying CPSU history in the Year of Party Training of the Czech-
oslovak Federation of Youth will follow the same program. The groups will
work under the direct ideological guidance of the KSC. Consequently, the
selection, training, and direction of propagandists will be carried out by organs
of the KSC.

Okres Evening Classes in Marxism-Leninism

These courses permit functionaries of okres "actives" to enhance their
political training.

The program will be divided into three years so that the quality of train-
ing can be improved. Unnecessary hurry, which led to mere formal study, will
be eliminated. Furthermore, the program will permit okres committee activists
to devote more time to specialized training. Since the first year of the okres
evening school has already passed, the program set up for okres evening schools
by the resolution regarding the 1954-1955 year of Party training will be concluded
in the next 2 years. Therefore, the program for the second and third years will
contain the following subjects:

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1. History of the CPSU (conclusion of last year's course).
2. History of the KSC.
3. Political economies.
4. Growth of the party.

Evening University Sessions in Marxism-Leninism.

The number of evening university sessions will not be increased. The 2-year course will be extended to 3 years, while the present subjects and range of study materials will be retained.

Independent Study of Marxism-Leninism

Independent study is designed for the most mature comrades in party, state, and economic organs, and in mass organizations. Participants will study recommended subjects on the basis of individual selection, in accordance with individual study plans, and with a view to the requirements of their own work.

Seminars will be organized for comrades who have not yet had sufficient experience with individual study or who have not completed the okres evening school, but who have the potentials for successful work under this system.

In these seminars, independent study will be organized according to subjects on the basis of a uniform group study plan for one year, and will be carried out by the seminar method in order to achieve more effective control and assistance, and in order to enhance the knowledge of cadre leaders enrolled in independent study.

Training of Propagandists

In the interest of improved training of propagandists, kraj committees will organize several 6-week courses at kraj party schools for propagandist seminar leaders beginning 25 June.

Monthly courses for the propagandists at kraj schools will continue uninterrupted throughout the year. The program of the 6-week courses for seminar leaders will be comparable to the programs of the monthly courses for propagandists, except that the subjects will be studied in more detail.

The party press is a significant force in raising the ideological standard of party training and the quality of propagandists. Kraj and okres committees will insure that the kraj press assists propagandists through articles on ideology and methodology, and by providing space for exchange of experiences in propaganda work.

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